

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0475
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, PARM, UNDC, FI, UR
SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE: MITTERRAND WILL STAY HOME

REF: HELSINKI 1050

SOCIALIST PARTY STAFF MEMBER TOLD US APRIL 21 THAT FRANCOIS MITTERRAND WOULD NOT ATTEND DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE APRIL 24-26 IN HELSINKI. MITTERRAND HAS "OTHER ENGAGEMENTS" WHICH NOW PREVENT HIS PARTICIPATION, SUCH AS A MEETING OF HIS REGIONAL COUNCIL OF WHICH HE IS PRESIDENT. PS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ROBERT PONTILLON AND BY NATIONAL DELEGATE FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY JEAN-PIERRE COT.

COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO SURE EXPLANATION FOR MITTERRAND'S CHANGE OF PLANS, THE RATIONALE OFFERED BY THE PS SEEMS LESS THAN CONVINCING. A MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS PROBABLY MITTERRAND'S DESIRE TO CONTROL THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONVENTION ON APRIL 29, TO BE PRECEDED BY AN IMPORTANT DIRECTING COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 26. THE LATTER WILL ADDRESS NECESSARY CHANGES IN PARTY LEADERSHIP AFTER THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS (PS REGULATIONS ALLOW NO MORE THAN 20 PERCENT OF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS TO BE FILLED BY DEPUTIES AND SENATORS), AND THE CONVENTION WILL SET THE POLITICAL DEBATE

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IN MOTION FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONGRESS. MITTERRAND OBVIOUSLY
HAS A BIG STAKE IN BOTH OF THESE OPERATIONS AND THUS MAY
HAVE DECIDED TO PASS UP THE SOMEWHAT TECHNICALLY-ORIENTED
HELSINKI MEETING.

GAMMON

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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